

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT  
(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/776,039
Filing Date	February 11, 2004
First Named Inventor	Stodala et al.
Art Unit	3618
Examiner Name	Unknown
Attorney Docket Number	1001.55US02

Sheet 1 of 6

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
JR		US-3,580,613	05-25-1971	Northrup
		US-3,606,382	09-20-1971	Pollock
		US-3,853,369	12-10-1974	Holden
		US-3,865,399	02-11-1975	Way
		US-3,889,997	06-17-1975	Schoneck
		US-3,927,903	12-23-1975	Jones
		US-4,089,276	05-16-1978	Enos
		US-4,194,754	03-25-1980	Hightower
		US-4,234,284	11-18-1980	Hauff
		US-4,639,032	01-27-1987	Barbour
		US-4,676,414	06-30-1987	Deguevara
		US-4,695,218	09-22-1987	Boyer
		US-4,757,876	07-19-1988	Peacock
		US-4,813,842	03-21-1989	Morton
		US-4,846,487	07-11-1989	Criley
		US-4,915,276	04-10-1990	Devito
JR		US-5,106,002	04-21-1992	Smith et al.

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL <sup>1</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	T <sup>6</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)			

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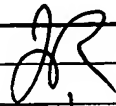
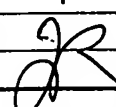
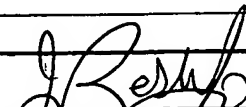
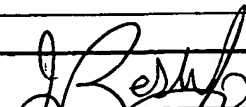
2/17/06

<sup>1</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>2</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>3</sup>See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>4</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>5</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>6</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>7</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

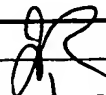

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b> <i>(Use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				<i>Complete if Known</i> Application Number    10/776,039 Filing Date            February 11, 2004 First Named Inventor   Stodala et al. Art Unit                 3618 Examiner Name         Unknown	
Sheet	2	of	6	Attorney Docket Number	1001.55US02
<b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>					
EXAMINER INITIAL <sup>*</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	
		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)			
		US-5,181,822	01-26-1993	Allsop et al.	
		US-5,215,234	06-01-1993	Pasley	
		US-5,310,100	05-10-1994	Liscinsky	
		US-5,372,287	12-13-1994	Deguevara	
		US-5,397,147	03-14-1995	Ducharme et al.	
		US-5,549,312	08-27-1996	Garvert	
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		US-5,685,686	11-11-1997	Burns	
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		US-5,775,560	07-07-1998	Zahn et al.	
		US-5,803,475	09-08-1998	Dick	
		US-5,803,523	09-08-1998	Clark et al.	
	US-5,820,004	10-13-1998	Lane		
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<small> <sup>*</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.  <sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.            This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.         </small>					

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		US-5,820,193	10-13-1998	Straffon		
		US-5,842,709	12-01-1998	Maccabee		
		US-5,881,937	03-16-1999	Sadler		
		US-5,931,362	08-03-1999	Chimenti		
		US-6,095,387	08-01-2000	Lipscomb		
		US-6,116,378	09-12-2000	Barrow		
		US-6,145,865	11-14-2000	Cannara et al.		
		US-6,152,341	11-28-2000	LeMay et al.		
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		US-6,170,843	01-09-2001	Maxwell et al.		
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		US-6,237,927	05-29-2001	Debo		
		US-6,253,981	07-03-2001	McLemore		
		US-6,270,139	08-07-2001	Simpson		
		US-6,296,290	10-02-2001	Wolf		
			US-6,336,413	01-08-2002	Ball	
			US-6,378,748	04-30-2002	Cox	
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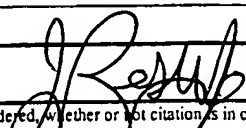
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				Art Unit	3618
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Sheet	4	of	6	Attorney Docket Number 1001.55US02	

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		Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known)		
		US-6,422,342	07-23-2002	Armstrong et al.
		US-6,474,668	11-05-2002	Debo
		US-6,499,564	12-31-2002	Puglisi
		US-6,511,086	01-28-2003	Schlict
		US-6,530,588	03-11-2003	Varney et al.
		US-6,554,311	04-29-2003	Blankenship et al.
		US-2001/0035625	11-01-2001	Debo
		US-2001/0045720	11-29-2001	Schlict
		US-2002/0060440	05-23-2002	Storer
		US-2002/0073935	06-20-2002	Graham et al.
		US-2002/0121760	09-05-2002	Puglisi
			US-2002/0197142	12-26-2002
		US-		
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Sheet	5	of	6	Attorney Docket Number 1001.55US02	

### NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T <sup>2</sup>
		Twistep Assembly, Installation, Use and Safety Instructions, pages 1-4.	
		Hitch Step/Towheads, Hitch Step, page 15.	
		Carr Pattern Company, Inc., page 24.	
		Car Barriers, <a href="http://www.dresslersdog.com/carbarrier.html">www.dresslersdog.com/carbarrier.html</a> , pages 1-6.	
		Twistep by OT, Dial up the Utility on your SUV! With Twistep the instant, multi-use step, <a href="http://www.twistep.com/index.htm">http://www.twistep.com/index.htm</a> , page 1.	
		Pet Information, <a href="http://www.twistep.com/petinfo.htm">http://www.twistep.com/petinfo.htm</a> , pages 2-4.	
		Twistep by OT, Dimensions & Specification, <a href="http://www.twistep.com/dimensionsandspecificaitons.htm">http://www.twistep.com/dimensionsandspecificaitons.htm</a> , pages 1-2.	
		Overton's 2003 Spring Master, page. 115.	
		Steel Horse Receiver Hitch Step, <a href="http://www.autobarn.net/steelhourtech.html">http://www.autobarn.net/steelhourtech.html</a> , page 1.	
		Go Rhino Universal HitchStep, <a href="http://shop.store.yahoo.com/rodi/gorhinunhit.html">http://shop.store.yahoo.com/rodi/gorhinunhit.html</a> , page 1 of 2.	
		Step-Around Step, Custom Fit Vehicle-Make/Year/Mode, page 1.	

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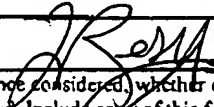
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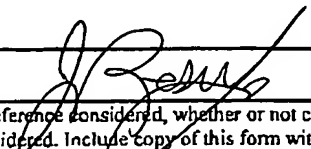
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<b>NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS</b>					
EXAMINER INITIAL*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published			T <sup>2</sup>
JR		Bumper Hitch Step, Bumper/Hitch Step Bars, <a href="http://www.sportsimportsltd.com/bumhitstep.html">http://www.sportsimportsltd.com/bumhitstep.html</a> , page 1.			
		<a href="http://store1.yimg.com/I/truckstuffusa_1733_294812">http://store1.yimg.com/I/truckstuffusa_1733_294812</a> , page 1.			
		Cabela's Automotive & ATV 2003 catalog, pages 56, 67, 71 and last page.			
		Cabela's - Petstop II Pet Ramp, <a href="http://www.cabelas.com/cabelas/en/templates/product/standard-item.jhtml?id+001999186174">http://www.cabelas.com/cabelas/en/templates/product/standard-item.jhtml?id+001999186174</a> , page 1.			
		Bass Pro Shops Marine Catalog 2003, pages 140-141.			
JR		Twiststep Multi-Use SUV Stair Step, <a href="http://canineauto.com/twiststep.htm">http://canineauto.com/twiststep.htm</a> , pages 1-5.			
EXAMINER SIGNATURE	JR Bell			DATE CONSIDERED	2/17/06
<p>*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.</p> <p>This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.</i></p>					

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<b>NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS</b>			
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JR		"TWISTEP The Instant Multi-Use Step for Your Truck or SUV", Product Brochures, www.twistep.com (8 pgs).	
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<p><sup>1</sup>EXAMINER: Initial if reference is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>2</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>3</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.</p> <p>This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 120 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.</i></p>			

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		First Named Inventor	Stodola et al.
		Art Unit	3618
		Examiner Name	Unknown
Sheet	1	of	1
		Attorney Docket Number	1001.55US02
<b>NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS</b>			
EXAMINER INITIAL <sup>*</sup>	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T <sup>2</sup>
JR		"StepLite by DAC Sky - Innovative truck products for professionals and outdoorsmen," Sportsman Gear Magazine, vol. 23, issue 4, page 21.	
EXAMINER SIGNATURE			DATE CONSIDERED
			2/17/06
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